In the Claims

Claims remaining in the application are as follows:

1. (Currently Amended): A slot filler adapted for usage in a rack cabinet ~~that can~~ and configured to accept a plurality of stacked housing-contained electronic devices, the cabinet having an air inlet and exit on mutually opposing sides and a plurality of slots capable of securing the stacked electronic devices, the slot filler comprising:

a blanking panel ~~capable of covering~~ adapted to cover an entry opening of a an unoccupied slot ~~that is unoccupied by an electronic device~~; and

a body coupled to the blanking panel that emulates dimensions of ~~an~~ a housing-contained electronic device and has a thickness selected so that clearance between the slot filler and an adjacent housing-contained electronic device leaves an air flow gap from the air inlet to exit that is sufficiently small to create an air flow resistance preventing air from re-circling toward the air inlet.

2. (Original): The slot filler according to Claim 1 wherein:

the cabinet has a frontal surface and columns coupled to the frontal surface on lateral ends of the plurality of slots; and

the blanking panel attaches to the columns.

3. (Currently Amended): The slot filler according to Claim 1 wherein:

the blanking panel is a cosmetic plate that is used to cover open spaces in the cabinet and to facilitate controlled airflow and is constructed from sheet metal and/or plastic; and

the body is constructed from sheet metal and/or plastic.

4. (Currently Amended): The slot filler according to Claim 1 wherein the slot filler is adapted for usage in a rack cabinet configured to accept a plurality of stacked standard electronic equipment 1U devices having a box structure, the slot filler comprising:

~~the blanking panel is constructed from sheet metal and/or plastic; and~~

~~the body is constructed from sheet metal and/or plastic~~

a blanking panel configured to cover the unoccupied slot entry opening; and

a box-structured body coupled to the blanking panel that emulates dimensions of the 1U electronic device and has a thickness selected so that clearance between the slot filler and an adjacent electronic device and/or slot filler leaves an air flow gap from the air inlet to exit that prevents air from re-circling toward the air inlet.

5. (Original): The slot filler according to Claim 1 wherein:
the body shape is approximately a rectangular polyhedron.

6. (Original): The slot filler according to Claim 1 wherein:
the body shape is approximately a rigid rectangular plate.

7. (Currently Amended): The slot filler according to Claim 1 wherein:
the body has an adjustable length for extension into the cabinet a controlled depth, the body being selected from a group of bodies consisting of a telescoping body with at least one telescoping joint enabling length adjustment, a body with at least one perforated break line relatively weakening the body structure at selected depths into the rack cabinet, and a body including a plurality of rigid rectangular plates with a sliding mechanism enabling the plates to slide relative to one another.

8. (Currently Amended): A system comprising:
a rack cabinet ~~capable of holding~~ adapted to hold a plurality of stacked housing-contained electronic devices;
an air inlet and exit coupled to mutually opposing sides of the cabinet;
a plurality of slots contained within the cabinet and ~~capable of securing~~ adapted to secure the stacked housing-contained electronic devices; and
a slot filler comprising:
a blanking panel capable of covering an entry opening of ~~a~~ an unoccupied slot ~~that is unoccupied by an electronic device~~; and
a body coupled to the blanking panel that emulates dimensions of ~~an~~ a housing-contained electronic device and has a thickness selected so that clearance between the slot filler and an adjacent housing-contained electronic device leaves an air flow gap from the air inlet to

exit that is sufficiently small to create an air flow resistance preventing air from re-circling toward the air inlet.

9. (Original): The system according to Claim 8 wherein:
the cabinet has a frontal surface and columns coupled to the frontal surface on lateral ends of the plurality of slots; and
the blanking panel attaches to the columns.

10. (Currently Amended): The system according to Claim 8 wherein:
the blanking panel is a cosmetic plate that is used to cover open spaces in the cabinet and to facilitate controlled airflow and is constructed from sheet metal and/or plastic; and
the body is constructed from sheet metal and/or plastic.

11. (Currently Amended): The system according to Claim 8 wherein the slot filler is adapted for usage in a rack cabinet configured to accept a plurality of stacked standard electronic equipment 1U devices having a box structure, the slot filler comprising:
~~the blanking panel is constructed from sheet metal and/or plastic; and~~
~~the body is constructed from sheet metal and/or plastic~~
a blanking panel configured to cover the unoccupied slot entry opening; and
a box-structured body coupled to the blanking panel that emulates dimensions of the 1U electronic device and has a thickness selected so that clearance between the slot filler and an adjacent electronic device and/or slot filler leaves an air flow gap from the air inlet to exit that prevents air from re-circling toward the air inlet.

12. (Original): The system according to Claim 8 wherein:
the body shape is approximately a rectangular polyhedron.

13. (Original): The system according to Claim 8 wherein:
the body shape is approximately a rigid rectangular plate.

14. (Currently Amended): The system according to Claim 8 wherein:

the body has an adjustable length for extension into the cabinet a controlled depth, the body being selected from a group of bodies consisting of a telescoping body with at least one telescoping joint enabling length adjustment, a body with at least one perforated break line relatively weakening the body structure at selected depths into the rack cabinet, and a body including a plurality of rigid rectangular plates with a sliding mechanism enabling the plates to slide relative to one another.

15. (Currently Amended): A method of controlling airflow in an electronic system comprising:

encasing a plurality of housing-contained electronic devices in a housing having multiple slots for receiving the housing-contained electronic devices arranged in a stack;

directing a cooling airstream flow over the plurality of stacked housing-contained electronic devices from an air inlet to an exit;

inserting a slot filler within any unoccupied slots ~~unoccupied by electronic devices~~ between the plurality of stacked housing-contained electronic devices; and

arranging the plurality of stacked housing-contained electronic devices and slot fillers with a selected clearance between adjacent housing-contained electronic devices and/or slot fillers leaving an air flow gap from the air inlet to exit that is sufficiently small to create an air flow resistance preventing air from re-circling toward the air inlet.

16. (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim 15 further comprising:

selecting dimensions and form of the slot fillers to emulate ~~an~~ a box-structured 1U electronic device.

17. (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim 15 further comprising:

~~injecting~~ receiving the cooling airstream flow into the housing from an air inlet in a front portion of the housing; and

venting warm air from the stacked electronic devices to an exit in a rear portion of the housing.

18. (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim 15 further comprising: covering the slot filler in ~~a~~ an unoccupied slot ~~unoccupied by an electronic device~~ with an ornamental covering.

19. (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim 15 further comprising: adjusting slot filler length for extension into the housing a controlled depth selected from a group of actions consisting of adjusting at least one telescoping joint in a telescoping body, breaking the body structure along a perforated break line relatively weakening the body structure at a selected depth into the rack cabinet, and sliding a plurality of rigid rectangular plates relative to one another.

20. (Currently Amended): A system comprising:

a housing with a plurality of slots regularly arranged in a stack for receiving multiple housing-contained electronic devices, the housing having an air inlet and an air exit for passing cooling air through the housing-contained electronic devices;

at least one housing-contained electronic device inserted into at least one of the plurality of slots; and

at least one slot filler inserted into the a slot of the plurality of slots, the slot fillers having dimensions that emulate dimensions of ~~an~~ a housing-contained electronic device,

the at least one housing-contained electronic device and the slot filler having an arrangement when inserted into the slots so that clearance between the adjacent slot fillers and/or housing-contained electronic device is an air flow gap that extends from the air inlet to the air exit that is sufficiently small to create an air flow resistance preventing air from re-circling toward the air inlet.

21. (Currently Amended): A system for controlling airflow in an electronic system comprising:

means for encasing a plurality of housing-contained electronic devices;

means within the encasing means for receiving the plurality of housing-contained electronic devices arranged in a stack;

means for directing a cooling airstream flow over the plurality of stacked housing-contained electronic devices from an air inlet to an exit; and

means for filling any unoccupied receiving means ~~unoccupied by electronic devices~~, the receiving means, electronic devices, and filling means being arranged with a selected clearance between adjacent electronic devices and/or filling means leaving an air flow gap from the air inlet to exit that is sufficiently small to create an air flow resistance preventing air from re-circling toward the air inlet.